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ABSTRACT

In spring 1984, a study was conducted at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC) to investigate the needs of the more mature students attending the college. Telephone interviews were conducted with 143 students aged 60 to 64 (pre-seniors) and 155 students aged 65 or over (senior citizens), representing 81.7% and 91.2%, respectively, of the older students enrolled in spring 1984 who could be identified. Study findings included the following: (1) the bulk of the pre-senior and senior citizen groups consisted of short-term students accumulating very few credit hours; (2) among the pre-senior population, 37% were enrolled in degree credit courses, 4.5% were enrolled in senior citizen courses, and the remainder were enrolled in other types of continuing education courses; (3) among the senior citizens, 22% were enrolled in degree credit courses, and 35% were enrolled in senior citizen courses; (4) only 12.5% of the pre-seniors and 7% of the senior citizens had earned 12 credit hours or more at WRHC; (5) the percentages of pre-senior and senior citizens living in specific communities was not necessarily proportional to the total student population; (6) in the last 2 years, 64% of the pre-seniors and 44% of the senior citizens attended courses at the main campus; (7) the main reasons for not attending the main campus were that no courses of interest were offered, other locations were more convenient, and arranging for transportation was a problem. The interview schedule is appended. (Author/LAL)

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WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE

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STUDY OF STUDENTS SIXTY YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER ATTENDING HARPER DURING THE SPRING OF 1984

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ABSTRACT

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF HARPER'S MORE MATURE STUDENTS, A SURVEY AND DATA GATHERING WAS CONDUCTED AMONG ALL STUDENTS 60 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER WHO WERE ENROLLED IN THE SPRING OF 1984. THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE AND ACHIEVED A RESPONSE RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 82 PERCENT FOR THE PRE-SENIORS (UNDER 65) AND 92 PERCENT FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS.

RESULTS OF THIS STUDY INDICATED THAT THE BULK OF THE PRE-SENIOR AND SENIOR CITIZEN TARGET POPULATION CONSISTED OF SHORT-TERM STUDENTS ACCUMULATING VERY FEW CREDIT HOURS. OVER ONE-THIRD OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS WERE ENROLLED IN SENIOR CITIZEN COURSE OFFERINGS. A DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THE PRE-SENIORS LIVED IN THE BARRINGTON AREA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AN INORDINATELY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS LIVE IN MT. PROSPECT.

LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE PRE-SENIORS AND LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS HAVE ENROLLED IN COURSES AT THE MAIN CAMPUS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. THE PRINCIPAL REASON GIVEN FOR NOT COMING TO THE MAIN CAMPUS IS THAT NO COURSES OF INTEREST WERE OFFERED THERE. ANOTHER OFTEN GIVEN REASON WAS THAT OTHER LOCATIONS WERE SIMPLY MORE CONVENIENT. ARRANGING FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE MAIN CAMPUS WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. THOSE SENIOR CITIZENS WHO DID ATTEND CLASS AT THE MAIN CAMPUS USED THE SERVICES THERE MUCH MORE FREQUENTLY THAN DID THE PRE-SENIOR GROUP.

I. [illegible] . . . .
II. [illegible] . . . .
III. [illegible] . . . .
IV. [illegible] . . . .
V. [illegible] . . . .
VI. Detailed Results
A- Classification by type of [illegible] . . . .
B- Profit [illegible] Accumulated . . . .
C- Community [illegible] . . . .
D- [illegible] of Spring 1984 [illegible] . . . .
E- Age . . . .
F- Attendance Patterns . . . .
G- [illegible] . . . .
H. For those who have attended classes on campus, the [illegible] they have used . . . .
I- Accessibility of [illegible] to those who have attended there . . . .

Appendix
A- Telephone Survey Format
B- Outline of information collected [illegible]

DETAILED RESULTS

Purpose

... the population of the Harper district matures, the senior citizen ... becoming a very substantial portion of this population. In this light, the ... senior citizen program requested that a study be conducted on ... future students attending Harper.

Procedure

... were surveyed which were treated separately. The ... termed "pre-enrollment" and they were defined to be ... The other group ... termed "senior citizens" and they were 65 years of age and older. Over ... half of this group were between 65 and 70, but there were some over 80. ... participants included all those registered in the spring of 1984 who were ... in the service area of Harper. A computer program was developed for ... survey purpose. The telephone response to the survey was as ...

	Pre-Enrollment Citizens	Senior Citizens
...	...	...
...	...	...
...	...	...
...	...	...

... The main purpose of the survey was that those who answered the survey ... representative of the target population identified. However, we know that ... Harper is currently serving 24,000 unduplicated students and almost ... of these are returning credit students. It is also known that prior ... studies of this type, about 15 percent of the contacted individuals ... refuse to participate which would indicate 306 students. In this survey, only ... individuals refused to participate which is very typical for this student ... Thus, it will appear that the overall skill of Harper's senior citizens is ... than it is.

Survey Instrument

... survey instrument was developed jointly by the ... and a senior citizen group using the focus group method of partici... research. This group helped to format the telephone survey. A ... was made to reach each person in the target population. ... attempts were made to reach each student in the master ...

Findings

... the pre-enrollment citizens, 47 percent were enrolled in degree ... while 53 percent were enrolled in non-degree courses. ... were enrolled in other types of continuing education units. Only

...ents

...living

...gton

...total

...

...

...

...graphic and Enrollment Information About
Pre-Senior and Senior Citizens at Harper College

Classification by type of ... Courses Attended	Pre-Senior Citizens: Number	Percent	Senior Citizens: Number	Percent
...Credit only	21		1	3.5
...Credit and Continuing ... Senior ... Courses only	43		30	17.6
...Credit and Senior ...izen Courses only	1		1	.6
...Credit, Continuing Edu... and Senior Citizen Courses		0	1	.6
...Credit and Senior ... Courses only	1	.6	1	11.8
...Credit Courses only	97	55.4	...	...
...Citizen Courses only	6	3.4	1	.4
...Credit Courses	6	3.4	6	3.5
Total	175	100.0	171	100.0

...s Have Accumulated

...	1...	...7.4	15...	9.9
...-1	1...	7.4	...	1.1
...	1	.6	2	1
...-4	4	2.3	2	1.2
...re	4	2.3	5	2.4
Total	175	100.0	17...	101.0

...ation of Home Home

...n Heights	3...	...0	3...	2.4
...ton	2...	1...6	1...	...4
...ington	2...	14.3	...3	13.5
...ton	2...	12.0	3...	21.2
...mbard	1...	10.2	1...	...4
...ington	1...	...4	8	4.7
...and Below	8	4.0	1...	...
...Grove Village	4	2....	7	4.1
...ield	4	2....	2	1.2
...ield Grove	2	1.1	2	1.2
...ngton ville	2	1.1	2	1.2
Wheeling	2	1.1	4	2.9
...rook	1	.6	...	...
...ton	1	.6	...	...
...Grove	1	.6	...	...
...	1	.6	...	...
... Heights	1	.6	5	2.9

	Pre-Jeni e Citizens		Ten e Citizens	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	1	.6
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	0	0
	1	.6	1	.6
	2	0	1	.6
	175	100.0	175	100.0

		0.6		2.5
	50	28.6	0	0.1
	10	5.7	1	3.3
	24	13.4	24	14.1
	175	100.0	175	100.0

		1.1	0	0
				22.5
			88	65.0
				14.7
				2.8
	175	100.0	175	100.0

Telephone Survey of Senior and Pre-Senior Citizens

	Pre-Senior Citizens		Senior Citizens	
Orientation at Main Campus	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Have attended a course on main campus in last few years	91	43.1	99	44.0
Have not attended a course on main campus in last few years	120	56.9	126	56.0
	211	100.0	225	100.0
Reasons for Not Attending Classes at Main Campus				
Classes/programs I want are offered closer to home	87	41.2	93	40.4
Prefer classes are more convenient than main campus	11	5.2	11	4.8
Have a health problem or am handicapped	5	2.4	31	13.5
Busy	23	10.9	12	5.2
Illness or handicapped	2	.9	1	.4
Waste of time	1	.5	1	.4
Class number up for were canceled	1	.5	1	.4
Times courses were offered were not convenient	1	.5	1	.4
Lack English skills to take courses	1	.5	1	.4
Too long a drive to campus	3	1.4	3	1.3
Courses taken were unsatisfactory	1	.5	1	.4
Not interested in school spirit	1	.5	1	.4
Not familiar with courses offered at campus	1	.5	1	.4
Courses are too hard to start	1	.5	1	.4
No reason given	2	.9	2	.9
	211	100.0	225	100.0

Telephone Survey of Senior Citizens in Sunnyvale

For those who have attended City facilities, the services they have used	Frequency Index*	Citizens Percent who used Service	Senior Citizens Mean Frequency Index*	Senior Citizens Percent who used Service
Main Library	.14	11.9	.43	36.8
Lakewood Resource Center	.16	14.1	.08	25.0
Computer Terminals	.03	3.6	.02	17
Recreation Classes	.07	4.3	.05	11.1
Attended student activity events	.05	4.4	.02	17
Building Gym or pool, etc.	.11	9.7	.04	9.2
Health Services	.04	3.5	.01	3.4
Hearing Aid	.00	.3	.00	0
Committee or Citizen Development	.03	2.7	.01	3
Total All Activities	.63	54.6	.65	100

Other services listed in open-ended questions: Police, Fire, Senior Center, Dental Hygiene Clinic

*Index: Scored 1 number of times
Scored 1 few times
Scored 0 never used

Access Problems of Main Library Those who have attended there	Frequency Number	Citizens Percent	Senior Citizens Number	Senior Citizens Percent
Have no problems	45	4.8	5	76.5
Difficulty in walking distance from the parking lot to the building	4	.4	1	11.7
Have problems getting transportation to campus	1	1.1	1	10.3
Not Known how to travel to the campus	0	0	0	1.5
Difficult to climb stairs	0	0	0	0
	4	4	7	100.0

far apart.

Palatine

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6.3

2.2

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